

BOROUGH OF BECCLES

## ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1939

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(L. GIBSON, M.B., D.P.H.)



The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses  
of the Borough of Beccles.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1939.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in Acres)	2017
Registrar General's estimate of the population mid 1939 :- for birth rate	6399
- for death rate	6655
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Book	2115
Rateable Value	£35059
Penny Rate - estimated net produce	£136

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total.	Males	Females	
Live Births -				
Legitimate	70	41	29	) Birth rate per 1000 estimated resident population mid 1939 11.095
Illegitimate	1	1	0	
Still Births	0	0	0	
Deaths	86	39	47	Death rate per 1000 - 12.92
Deaths from Puerperal Causes - Nil.				
		Males	Females	Total
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age		1	1	2
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:-				
All infants per 1000 live births		27.77		
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.		28.17		
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births.		Nil.		
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Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		11		
" " Measles (all ages)		0		
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)		0		
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		0		

# Comparison of 1939 with previous years.

Year	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Eng. & Wales. 1939.
Population: Census						
" Estimated (a)	6590	6524	6426	6408	6399	
" (b)					6655	
Births	93	80	87	83	71	
Birth rate per 1000.	14.1	12.26	13.54	12.95	11.1	15
Deaths	89	88	111	86	86	
Death rate per 1000.	13.5	13.49	17.3	13.4	12.9	12.1
Death rate with comparability factor	10.7	10.66	13.6	10.6	10.2	
Standardised death rate	8.7	8.7	11.2	8.7	8.4	
Infant deaths	2	1	2	2	2	
Infant mortality rate	21.5	12.5	22.9	24.1	27.8	50
Cancer death rate	1.36	1.84	3.73	2.49	1.65	1.67
Respiratory tuberculosis death rate.	0.30	Nil	0.93	0.31	0.75	0.54

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :	Dr. L. Gibson, M.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector :	Mr. C. L. Hamby, M.I.M.C.E.
Meat Inspector :	Mr. J. C. Taylor, M.R.C.V.S.

They are part-time Officers of the Council.

## ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Since April 1938 infectious diseases have been treated at the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital in return for payment of a proportion of their annual charges.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Motor Ambulance of the Beccles Division of the St. John Ambulance is available for the removal of non-infectious or accident cases. This service has proved adequate and satisfactory.

Infectious cases are removed by the Lowestoft Isolation Hospital Ambulance.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Clinic continues to progress satisfactorily. The Centre was opened every Tuesday afternoon at the Red Triangle Hut under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health or the Assistant County Medical Officer assisted by the Nurses from the Nursing Home.

The following are comparative figures:-

	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Av. weekly attendance)	38	32	40	48	37	33	27	21	31	31	42	32
New cases during yr.)	66	65	72	58	64	43	41	29	41	66	86	38

The centre was opened on 51 occasions and a doctor attended at 46 sessions.

There were 25 children under 1 year of age who attended and put in 612 attendances.

There were 52 children between 1 and 5 years of age who put in 1040 attendances.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN AREA

Property in the Borough is inspected from time to time by the Sanitary Inspector or myself.

These investigations resulted in the service of 4 informal notices.

### WATER SUPPLY

2169 premises are supplied by the Company, deducting 45 places of business leaves 2124 houses supplied. The supply has been adequate and satisfactory. Since April, 1939, a monthly bacteriological has been taken with the following results:-

Bacteria growing on Agar B.Coli absent in 100 cc.  
for 48 hours at 37°C.

April	0	"
May	1	"
June	1	"
August	3	"
September	4	"
October	4	"
November	0	"
December	0	"

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are 9 slaughterhouses on the register and 24 licences to slaughter were in force. Humane killers are in general use.

### MEAT INSPECTION

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, 268 visits to slaughterhouses have been made and 1871 carcasses inspected. This is an increase on last year when there were 184 visits and 1136 carcasses inspected.

#### Carcasses inspected and condemned

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Kids</u>
Number killed		1802	335	2691	6210	6
Number inspected	194	12	185	271	1203	6
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	0	2	-	-	8	-
Part carcasses condemned	3	1	-	43	23	-
Percentage diseased of number inspected	1.5	25	-	15.9	2.6	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	1	-	-	2	-
Part carcasses condemned	6	1	1	-	57	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.1	41.66	0.54	-	4.9	-

### RIVERS AND STREAMS

Bacteriological samples taken in May showed little difference between the one taken from the Bathing Pool and those taken in the river above and below it.

## HOUSING

During the year 2 houses which were subjects of Demolition Orders were demolished, displacing 10 persons.

7 houses in Saltgate and 3 at the junction of Peddars Lane and Blyburgate were demolished in road widening schemes.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

On the Register there are 19 with mechanical power and 47 without mechanical power.

A case of a noisy fan and a case of defective fire escapes have been remedied.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	<u>Cases notified</u>	<u>Ages</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Smallpox	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	1	5	1	1
Enteric Fever	1	13	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0	0

The fatal case of Diphtheria was an evacuee who was taken to the Beccles Cottage Hospital for tracheotomy.

### Ages of Cancer cases

Males - 52, 52, 59, 73, 75 and 84.  
Females - 46, 62, 70, 75 and 89.

## TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 years	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
5-15 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-25 years	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
25-35 years	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
35-45 years	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
45-55 years	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65 years	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

On the Register at the beginning of the year there were 23 respiratory cases (15 males and 8 females) and 3 non-respiratory cases (1 male and 2 females)

During the year 4 respiratory (all males) and 3 non-respiratory (2 males and 1 female) were added including 2 notified otherwise than by notification, i.e. they moved into the district.

Of those on the Register 5 respiratory died (4 males and 1 female) and 1 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory removed, leaving at the end of the year 21 respiratory (14 males and 7 females) and 5 non-respiratory (3 males and 2 females).

6 respiratory cases received Sanatorium treatment.

## EVACUATION

The Borough was a Reception Area for evacuated mothers and children.

1689 evacuees of the priority classes arrived on September 5th and were billeted in the town.

On September 26th "Holmleigh" was opened as a Hostel for children who were not suitable for ordinary billets and did very good work.

By the end of December the number of evacuees had reduced to 801.

I wish to tender to the Sanitary Inspector and other Borough Officials my best thanks for their kind assistance during the year.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

*L. Gilson*

4th October, 1940.

Medical Officer of Health.

